

For Immediate Release

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FWBBC President Completes Doctorate

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College President J. Matthew Pinson completed his graduate work at Vanderbilt University this spring and received the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in higher education leadership and policy during commencement exercises May 11. His doctoral project was titled *Evaluating and Interpreting Change in Higher Education: A Report for the Middle Tennessee State University Academic Master Plan Committee*.

President Pinson said, “This doctoral degree in higher education leadership was a great learning experience and something I can put to use immediately in light of the new graduate and undergraduate programs we’re launching here at FWBBC. I’m thankful to the Board of Trustees and to the college faculty and staff for their understanding and encouragement through the process.”

A fifth generation Free Will Baptist, Dr. Pinson was inaugurated as the fifth president of FWBBC in September 2002, one day after his 35th birthday. He completed the Ed.D. degree at Vanderbilt during the fifth year of his presidency.

Under Pinson’s leadership, enrollment at FWBBC has surged from 281 to 420, setting a 22-year high in 2006-2007. The largest graduating class in 23 years (78 students) received FWBBC degrees in May. Net revenues for the college have increased 43 percent in five years, nearing the \$6 million mark annually.

President Pinson’s first book, *A Free Will Baptist Handbook: Heritage, Beliefs, and Ministries*, was published in 1998 by Randall House. His second book, *The Washing of the Saints’ Feet*, came off the press in 2006 (Randall House). He edited a third volume, *Four Views on Eternal Security*, published by Zondervan in 2002.

Pinson is a member of the denomination's Commission for Theological Integrity, where he served as founding editor-in-chief of *Integrity* (the Commission's journal) and as program coordinator for the annual Theological Symposium. He was a member of the influential Higher Education Task Force, and has served in numerous district and state responsibilities.

His body of work includes more than 50 articles, book reviews, and entries for encyclopedias, magazines and professional journals. For eight years, he was a regular newspaper columnist while pastoring in Georgia. His interest and expertise in theology, church history, and pastoral ministry make him an attractive conference speaker in both academic and denominational settings.

An alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Dr. Pinson completed two degrees at the University of West Florida (B.A in 1990; M.A. in 1993), and the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) at Yale University (1994).

Matt and Melinda Pinson have two children, Anna (7) and Matthew (5).